Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-7. cancelled

8. (new) A turbine for pumping a medium comprising:

a runner having one or more rotor blades and a hub;

a housing having a distributor that regulates flow of the medium into the runner;

a draft tube that guides the medium flowing out from the runner and having an inlet diffuser; and

a displacement unit in the draft tube and having an upstream end in proximity to the hub, wherein the displacement unit has a variable width.

9. (new) The turbine of claim 8, wherein the width of the displacement unit increases in the direction of flow of the medium.

10. (new) The turbine of claim 8, wherein between the hub and the upstream end of the displacement unit is a distance that is between 0.5mm and 50 mm.

11. (new) The turbine of claim 8, wherein the displacement unit is supported by rods connected to the draft tube.

12. (new) The turbine of claim 8, wherein the displacement

unit is supported on the hub of the runner.

13. (new) The turbine of claim 8, wherein the displacement unit is integrally formed with the hub of the runner and rotates with the hub.

14. (new) The turbine of claim 8, wherein the draft tube runs along a substantially straight line.

15. (new) The turbine of claim 8, wherein the draft tube is curved.

16. (new) The turbine of claim 8, wherein the displacement unit extends substantially longitudinally in the draft tube.

17. (new) The turbine of claim 8, wherein the width of the displacement unit is tapered in the direction of flow of the medium.

18. (new) The turbine of claim 8, wherein the medium being pumped is water.

19. (new) A method of reducing pressure fluctuations in a turbine that pumps a medium, the method comprising:

regulating flow of the medium into a runner via a distributor in a turbine housing;

guiding the medium flowing out from the runner via a draft tube; and

reducing swirling of the medium by varying an inner cross-sectional area of the draft tube in proximity to the runner.

20. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the inner cross-sectional area of the draft tube is varied by positioning a displacement unit of varying width in the draft tube.

21. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the width of the displacement unit increases in the direction of flow of the medium.

22. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein between a hub of the runner and an upstream end of the displacement unit is a distance that is between 0.5mm and 50 mm.

23. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the displacement unit is supported by rods connected to the draft tube.

24. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the displacement unit is integrally formed with the hub of the runner and rotates with the hub.

25. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the draft tube runs along a substantially straight line.

26. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the draft tube is curved.

27. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the medium being pumped is water.